United Nations

Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council responds positively to the request that it make arrangements for supervision by United Nations Protection Force of all heavy weapons in Bosnia and Herzegovina, following the ceasefire agreement signed today in London between the parties to the conflict.

+ UNPROFOR confirms death of two French officers, killed by mine near Zadar; Force Commander appoints Cedric Thornberry as Chairman of Joint Commission established in accordance with Security Council resolution 762 (1992).

+ Cyrus Vance, former Secretary of State of the United States, is appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General to South Africa; to travel to South Africa early next week.

+ Secretary-General and Security Council condemn the murder of Fijian member of United Nations Guards Contingent in Iraq and call for immediate investigation.

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The Security Council has decided in principle to respond positively to the request for the United Nations to make arrangements for the supervision by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) of all heavy weapons - combat aircraft, armour, artillery, mortars, rocket-launchers, among other - in compliance with the agreement between the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina signed in London today, within the framework of the Conference on Yugoslavia.

In a Presidential Statement read out by Council President José Luis Jesus (Cape Verde) this afternoon, the members of the Council call on the parties to declare immediately to the Force Commander of UNPROFOR the locations and quantities of the heavy weapons to be placed under supervision, and request the Secretary-General to report by Monday, 20 July, on the implementation and resource implications of this decision.

The Council also welcomes the provisions in the agreement concerning the return of all refugees and freedom of movement for civilians caught up in or

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trapped by the military situation. It further welcomes the efforts being made to mobilize international assistance in handling the refugee problem under the aegis of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The statement also calls on all parties and others concerned to observe scrupulously the ceasefire throughout the entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Finally, the Council expresses its satisfaction that the talks on future constitutional arrangements for Bosnia and Herzegovina are to resume in London on 27 July 1992, and urges all parties to contribute actively and positively to these talks, "so that a peaceful solution is achieved as soon as possible".

The adoption of the Presidential Statement followed the signing earlier today at London of an agreement between the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A copy of the agreement was transmitted to the Security Council in a letter from the Permanent Representatives of Belgium, France and the United Kingdom.

According to the text, the parties agreed to a 14-day ceasefire, effective Sunday, 19 July, throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. During that period, all the parties undertake to explore measures for strengthening the ceasefire in the longer term and agree not to initiate fire of any sort, even under provocation. They also agree that "all refugees will be permitted to return to the places from which they have been expelled and that civilians who are caught up in or trapped by the military situation, will be given freedom of movement".

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UNPROFOR has confirmed the death of two French officers from the French battalion in Sector South. The incident occurred at 6 p.m. local time, when the officers stepped on a land mine at Zemunik airport, north east of Zadar.

In a separate development, it was announced today that after successful consultations with all the parties concerned, the UNPROFOR Force Commander, Lieutenant-General Satish Nambiar, had appointed Cedric Thornberry, as Chairman of the Joint Commission established in accordance with Security Council resolution 762 (1992).

The other three members of the Commission will represent the Government of Croatia, the local authorities in the region and the European Commission Monitoring Mission (ECMM), respectively. It is expected that the date of the first meeting will be announced early next week.

The Joint Commission, as described in the Secretary-General's report to the Council dated 26 June, will oversee and monitor the process of restoration of the Croatian Government's authority in the so-called "pink zones" -- areas of Croatia which have been controlled by the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA), and in which there is a substantial Serbian population, but which lie outside the agreed boundaries of the United Nations Protected Areas. In the circumstances which had arisen, the Secretary-General proposed, and the Security Council

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approved, a series of measures which would be taken, under UNPROFOR's supervision, to avoid further conflict in the region and stabilize the situation.

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Mr. Cyrus Vance, former Secretary of State of the United States, was appointed today the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to South Africa. In a press release issued at Headquarters, the Spokesman of the Secretary-General indicated that Mr. Vance would travel to South Africa early next week.

The appointment of Mr. Vance follows a two-day meeting of the Security Council on South Africa and the adoption of a resolution inviting Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali to appoint, as a matter of urgency, a Special Representative to recommend measures which would assist in bringing an affective end to the violence in that country, and in creating conditions for negotiations leading towards a peaceful transition to a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa.

During the Council debate, most speakers called for the appointment of such an envoy. In a press conference following the debate, the Foreign Minister of South Africa, Roelof (Pik) Botha indicated that his Government would welcome Mr. Vance's visit.

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In a statement issued last night, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said he was deeply shocked to learn of the murder yesterday of a Fijian member of the United Nations Guards Contingent in Iraq, Ravuama Dakia, and condemned "this appalling act perpetrated against a member of the United Nations humanitarian personnel deployed in Iraq". He ordered an immediate and thorough investigation of the killing.

The Security Council, in a Presidential Statement this afternoon deeply deplored the murder. It supported the Secretary-General's decision to order an immediate investigation of the crime. The members of the Council expressed their condolences to the family of the victim.

The Council also registered its profound concern at the deteriorating security conditions affecting the safety and wellbeing of United Nations personnel in Iraq. It demanded that the attacks perpetrated against the United Nations Guards Contingent and other humanitarian personnel deployed in Iraq cease immediately and that maximum cooperation be extended by the authorities in investigation of the crime as well as in the protection of United Nations personnel.

This incident comes just over a week after two Austrian members of the Guards Contingent were injured when a bomb was tossed into the garden of the house where they were quartered.

The Memorandum of Understanding on United Nations humanitarian operations in Iraq expired on 30 June and Iraq not yet agreed to its extension.

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